



Doug Venneri

Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Doug Venneri

SCHOOL: Pioneer Middle School

SUBJECT: 6th Grade Humanities (Social Studies/Writing) YEARS IN DISTRICT: 27

Q. What are your students working on in class?

A. We are currently studying ancient Greece. The three areas we spend the most time on are the Egyptians, the Greeks and Romans.

Q. How does something that happened so long ago still appeal to students?

A. They think of our country as being very old and they don't realize that our country is an infant compared to countries like Greece. They are fascinated to know that we were influenced by events that happened 3000 years ago.

Q. How do assignments in this class help students learn other skills?

A. One of the main writing styles we use is persuasive writing. The kids are working on a story about whether they would rather live in the state of Athens or Sparta if they were living in ancient times. The emphasis of the project is on persuading their readers to prefer Sparta or Athens.

Q. How do you collaborate with fellow teachers to support student needs?

A. During our late start Wednesdays we collaborate with the teachers who share students. We coordinate activities and use our common planning periods to learn more about the students and their learning needs.

COMMENTS FROM PIONEER MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL DANA JONES:

"Pioneer's Doug Venneri is a wonderful teacher and one of the kindest people you'll ever meet. More than that, he is always smiling and encouraging. Even more than that, Venneri is an inspiration to his students. He shares his excitement about history with them, making it come alive. One parent recently commented that her family had to visit a Greek and Roman exhibit in Seattle because Mr. Venneri mentioned how great it was! Students in Doug's class are encouraged to do their best and find that Mr. Venneri is their biggest advocate."

Over



MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM
DOUG VENNERI'S CLASS:



COMMENTS FROM DOUG...

"If we are to understand about our world today, then it's important we understand our past. This knowledge makes for good citizens who understand our democracy, voting and all of our rights. It makes for a well rounded student."

We have great students who work hard and are anxious to learn. In today's world where the face of education is changing, we're adjusting to different styles of learning. Our kids are tremendous.



We read Greek literature, do mapping projects and answer WASL-like stem questions from our textbook. Eventually we will be developing PowerPoint presentations and posters on one of the Greek Gods we are studying.